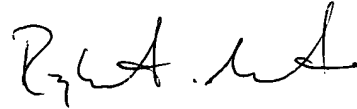


Preliminary Amendment

APPLICANT: H. GEORGE PIRES; SERIAL NO. : 10/723,604;
FILED : NOVEMBER 25, 2003; ATT'Y DOCKET : RM-GPG

that the prosecution of this case can be expedited by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated hereinbelow.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Monsanto', written in a cursive style.

Raphael A. Monsanto
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313-886-3130 (Fax)